

Remarks

Claims Rejections – 35 USC §103

Examiner rejects Claims 23-27, 30-32, 39-44 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Acampora et al.* (US 5,528,583) in view of newly-cited *Wang et al.* (US 5,875,185). Reconsideration is requested.

It is noted that in this latest Action, Examiner accepts that *Acampora* fails to teach that the mobile terminal transmits information defining explicitly at least some of the current nodes of the communications network supporting the communication to the target base station. Examiner looks to *Wang* to teach these missing features.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Wang* also fails to teach the limitation, in claim 23, that the mobile terminal transmits information defining explicitly at least some of the current nodes of the communications network supporting the communication to the target base station.

Wang describes a system for handoff in a wireless LAN. Referring to the passage of *Wang* helpfully cited by the Examiner, several scenarios are described where a workstation (MT) moves from the coverage area of one base station to the coverage area of another base station. The scenario of Figure 7A shows a scenario where a workstation (MT) moves from the coverage area of one base station 60b served by a switch 54 to the coverage area of another base station 60c served by a different switch 58. It should be noted that, even after handoff, *Wang* still requires that communications are routed via the original switch 54, and a virtual path (VP₄₀) between switches 54, 58. The 'Routing Message' (col.5 lines 59-64) is sent only to the immediate switch (switch 54, Fig.7A) to which the original base station 60b is connected, and it is that switch which sets up the forwarding of communications. *Wang* does not suggest that a MT should "transmit information defining explicitly at

least some of the current nodes of the communications network supporting the communication to the target base station.” Indeed, Wang has no need to do this, since as communications are always routed via switch 54 the network has no need for this information.

In contrast, according to the present invention as defined by claim 23, a mobile terminal transmits, to a target base station, information identifying explicitly at least some of the nodes of the network which support an existing communication. The information explicitly identifies nodes (e.g. cross-over switches) in the current communication path through the network. It is useful to re-use part of the existing communication path through the network for the new communication path to the target base station. By explicitly specifying network nodes in the current path, the target base station is able to quickly identify a node to which it can connect. It is important that an existing call is quickly transferred as only a limited time period is available before a call is ‘dropped’. The present invention allows a more efficient routing to be achieved than is possible with *Wang* or *Acampora*.

As *Wang* fails to teach the limitations of claim 23 missing from *Acampora*, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine *Wang* and *Acampora* they would not arrive at the invention defined by this claim.

Independent claims 30, 39 and 41 contain similar limitations as claim 23 and are considered allowable for similar reasons.

Dependent claims 24-27, 31, 32 and 40 and 42-44 are also considered allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable base claim 23, 30, 39 or 41.

Examiner’s indication of the allowability of claims 35 and 36 is noted and appreciated. Examiner’s indication of the allowability of claims 28, 29, 33, 34 is also noted. Applicant has rewritten these claims in independent form to include the

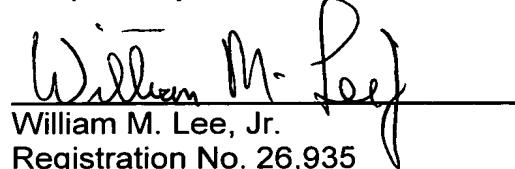
limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Method claim 29 should have been dependent upon independent method claim 23, in the same manner as apparatus claim 34 is dependent upon independent claim 30. This is corrected by this response.

For completeness, Applicant takes this opportunity to correct a typographical error in the final clause of claim 23; "the mobile terminal transmitting the information defining explicitly at least some..." This is the only amendment made to claim 23.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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